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THE

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

BRITISH BIRDS;

OR, A

SELECTION OF THE MOST RARE, BEAUTIFUL, AND INTERESTING

BIRDS

WHICH INHABIT THIS COUNTRY:

THE DESCRIPTIONS FROM THE

SYSTEMA NATURÆ

OF

LINNÆUS;

WITH

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS,

EITHER ORIGINAL, OR COLLECTED FROM THE LATEST AND MOST ESTEEMED

ENGLISH ORNITHOLOGISTS;

AND EMBELLISHED WITH

FIGURES,

DRAWN, ENGRAVED, AND COLOURED FROM THE ORIGINAL SPECIMENS.

BY E. DONOVAN.

VOL. V.

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SCNHALB

PLATE CI.

PHASIANUS COLCHICUS.

COMMON PHEASANT.

GALLINÆ.

Bill convex: the upper Mandible arched. Toes connected by a membrane at the bottom. Tail feathers more than twelve.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex, ſhort, ſtrong. Head carunculated with bare fleſh on the ſides. Legs (moſtly) furniſhed with ſpurs behind.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

General colour reddiſh. Head blue. Tail long, wedge ſhaped. Membrane of the cheek warted, and of a bright red colour.

PHASIANUS COLCHICUS: rufus, capite cæruleo, cauda cuneata, genis papilloſis. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. 629. 4.
Gmel. Syſt. I. p. 741.

Phaſianus Colchicus. *Linn. Syſt. I. p.* 271. 3.
Brun. Orn. 58.
Friſch. pl. 123.
Olin. uc. p. 49.

PLATE CI.

Pheaſant. *Raii Syn. p.* 56. *A.* 1.
Will. orn. p. 163. *pl.* 28.
Albin. I. pl. 25. 26.
Le Faiſan. *Briſ. Orn. I. p.* 262. 1.
Buff. Oiſ. 2. *p.* 328. *pl.* 11.
Pl. Enl. 121. 122.

That mind which is inclined to admire the wonders and beauties of creation, will pauſe to examine with more than ordinary attention, a bird, in which nature has diſplayed an elegance and variety of colours, ſufficient to arreſt the admiration of ancient philoſophers; and furniſh them with the happieſt ſimile to abaſh human oſtentation *.

Perhaps, there are few tribes of birds in which nature has been more profuſe of her ampleſt colouring than that of the Pheaſant. The common ſpecies as we now conſider it in this country, notwithſtanding its beauty, is inferior in that reſpect to two others that are alſo found at large in ſome of our woods. The Ring and painted Pheaſants are far more richly decorated, and theſe may probably be as abundant in future generations as the Common Pheaſant is at preſent. The variegated Pheaſant is beautiful, and the ſcarcely exampled delicacy of the White kind renders it an intereſting variety.

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* "When Croeſus, king of Lydia, was ſeated on his throne, adorned with royal "magnificence, and all the barbarous pomp of eaſtern ſplendour, he aſked Solon if "he had ever beheld any thing ſo fine! The Greek Philoſopher, no way moved by "the objects before him, or taking a pride in his native ſimplicity, replied, that after "having ſeen the beautiful plumage of the Pheaſant, he could be aſtoniſhed at no "other finery." BUFFON.

The

The beauty of all theſe varieties are, however, eclipſed by the Argus Pheaſant; and probably, were we better acquainted with the Phaſianus ſuperbus, and ſome other gigantic Chineſe ſpecies*, we might place them among the moſt brilliant of the feathered race.

At what period of time the Pheaſant was introduced into this Country, it is impoſſible now to aſcertain. They have, in all probability, been long naturalized in this Country. Some of our domeſtic fowls, it is ſuppoſed, were introduced more than two thouſand years ago, *Cæſar* noticing them. Whether this circumſtance may aſſiſt conjecture, concerning the introduction of the Pheaſant, we dare not preſume to determine. Pheaſants were firſt brought into Europe from the banks of the Phaſis, a river of ancient Colchis, in Aſia Minor: at preſent it is found throughout Europe, in a wild ſtate. It has not hitherto been diſcovered in America.

The female is ſmaller than the male; the general colour, brown, variegated with other obſcure colours, the tail is ſhorter than in the male; and the ſpace round the eye, which is bare in that ſex, is covered with feathers in the female.

They breed like the Partridge, on the ground. Lay from twelve to fifteen eggs, ſmaller than thoſe of the hen, and of a paler colour than thoſe of the Partridge. The young follow the females like Chickens.

Several authors have noticed a circumſtance of this bird, which ſurpriſing as it may appear, is by no means peculiar to the Pheaſant

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* Colonel Davies has a drawing of the tail feather of one of the Chineſe ſpecies of Pheaſants, which is ſix feet in length.

only. After the hen has done laying and ſetting, the plumage of the female becomes like that of the male, and ſhe is then entirely neglected by him. *Salerne*, *Edwards*, and others, have mentioned this of the Pheaſant, Guinea Hen, Rock Manakin, &c. and Mr. J. Hunter had a paper in the Philoſophical Tranſactions on that ſubject. Latham obſerves, that it does not always require *mature age* to give the hen Pheaſant the appearance of the male.

PLATE CII.

ANAS ALBIFRONS.

WHITE FRONTED GOOSE.

ANSERES.

Bill obtuſe, covered with a thin membrane, broad, gibbous below the baſe, ſwelled at the apex. Tongue fleſhy. Legs naked. Feet webbed or finned.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex above: flat beneath: hooked at the apex; and beſet with membranous teeth.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Aſh coloured, front white.

ANAS ALBIFRONS. Cinerea, fronte alba,
Gmel. Syſt. I. p. 509.
Lath. Ind. Orn. 2. 842. 27.

Anas Erythropus. *Lin. Syſt.—Faun. Suec.* 166. *(fem.)*
Georgi Reiſe. p. 166.

Anas Septentrionalis ſylveſtris. *Briſ.* 6. *p.* 269. 3.

Laughing Gooſe. *Edw. pl.* 153.

PLATE CII.

White Fronted Gooſe. *Br. Zool. No.* 268. *pl.* 94. *I.* (*the head*)
Arct. Zool. No. 476.
Lath. Gen. Syn. Vol. 6. *p.* 463. 22.
L'Oye Sauvagè du nord. *Briſ. Av.* 6. 269. 3.
L'Oye rieuſe. *Buff. Oiſ.* 9. *p.* 81.
Polniſche Ganſs. *Kram.* 339.
Vild Gaas. *Brunnich.*

The length of the White Fronted Gooſe exceeds two feet; the weight is about five pounds. It has neither beauty of colours or elegance of form to render it an intereſting ſpecies. The white ſpace on the forehead is the moſt ſtriking peculiarity of the bird, and its name is ſufficiently characteriſtic of that part, to diſtinguiſh it from every other Britiſh ſpecies of the Duck tribe. It is found in the fens in ſmall flocks, during winter, and migrates in March. In England it is rather uncommon.

Linnæus conſidered the White Fronted Gooſe as the female of the Bernacle Gooſe, of which credulity has reported ſo much, and we may think naturaliſts have ſaid too little; for it ſeems yet, but doubtful with ſome Ornithologiſts whether the opinion of Linnæus be wholly unfounded in truth or not, though they have ventured to ſeparate them into diſtinct ſpecies.

As many kinds of the Duck tribe inhabit the lakes and foreſts of Lapland, and other arctic regions, during the breeding ſeaſon, it is difficult in ſome inſtances, to diſtinguiſh the mere differences of ſex or age from ſpecific diſtinctions. The bernacle of which the white fronted Gooſe has been ſuppoſed the female, were believed about two hundred years to be bred on the coaſt of Scotland; but thoſe who

who aſſerted this, declared alſo, that they were generated out of *decayed wood*, or were hatched in the ſhell of the Lepas Antifera, a marine production very common in thoſe parts. It has ſeveral membranous branches or arms, and at the end of each, is ſituated a multivalve ſhell. The feathered beard of the fiſh hanging out of the ſhell, were the ſuppoſed feathers or limbs of the young *Tree Geeſe*, as they were called by the projectors of this whimſical hypotheſis.

PLATE CIII.

FRINGILLA CARDUELIS.

GOLDFINCH.

PASSERES.

Bill ſtrong, pointed. Noſtrils oval, broad, naked.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſtrong, conic, ſtraight, ſharp.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Wings marked in the middle with yellow: the tips white. Tail black: moſt of the feathers marked with a white ſpot near the end.

FRINGILLA CARDUELIS. remigibus antrorſum luteis, extima immaculata, rectricibus duabus extimis medio reliquiſque apice albis. *Lath. Ind. Orn. I.* 449. 58.
Lin. Syſt. I. p. 318. 7.
Gmel. Syſt. I. p. 903.
Klein. p. 365. *I.*
Schæf. El. Orn. t. 24.

Friſch.

PLATE CIII.

Frisch. t. I.
Muller, No. 258.
Faun. Arag. p. 87.
Merian Inf. t. 173.

GOLDFINCH, OR THISTLEFINCH. *Br. Zool.* 2. *No.* 124.
Arct. Zool. 2. *p.* 283.
Lath. Gen. Syn. 3. *p.* 281.
Ruffel. Alep. p. 70.
Will. Orn. p. 246. *t.* 46.
Albin. I. t. 64.
Raii. Syn. av. 89.

Le Chardonneret. *Buff. Ois.* 4. *p.* 187. *t.* 10.
Pl. Enl. t. 4. *f. I.*
Brif. av. 3. 53.

Cardellino, *Zinnan. Vov. p.* 58. *t.* 8. 47.

Cardelli, *Olina.* 10.

Stiglitza, *Faun. Suec. fp.* 236.

Stiglitz, *Kram.* 365.
Scopoli. 211.

Stigeliz, *Wirfing. Vog. t.* 9. *and* 30.

Amongſt the common birds that inhabit this Country, the Goldfinch claims a decided preference to our attention. It would be ſuperfluous to expatiate on the beauty of a bird ſo well known, and difficult to add any information to its general hiſtory, that has eſcaped the notice of ornithologiſts.

The Goldfinch is found throughout Europe, and in many parts of Africa and Aſia. The varieties of it are numerous. Latham mentions

tions no leſs than eight kinds. One of theſe is like the common ſort, except the fore part of the head, which is red, and about the eyes white. Another, ſuppoſed to be a mixed breed with the Lark, has a fleſh-coloured bill, irides yellowiſh; head, throat, and neck black, ſpotted with red near the bill; breaſt, back, ſcapulars, and rump yellowiſh brown; belly, ſides, thighs, and under tail coverts, white.

Inſtances of Goldfinches wholly white ſometimes occur; one ſpecimen of that kind is preſerved in the Leverian Muſeum, and another, in which thoſe parts only, which are red in the common ſort, have a gloſſy tinge of that colour. A third ſort in the ſame collection, is white except the crown of the head, which is mottled with red, and a creſcent of the ſame colour under the throat; the wings are yellowiſh.

Goldfinches of the oppoſite extreme of colour are not uncommon. Some are entirely black with a ſlight trace of red about the head, in others even this trace is obliterated. Birds that are fed on hemp ſeed, of which the Goldfinch will eat freely, often become entirely black. Buffon mentions one, in which the head only was of that colour. Willughby and Ray deſcribe a variety that had no red on the head, but a ſaffron-coloured ring ſurrounded the bill. Brown has another, with the head ſtriped alternately with red and yellow. Buffon and Briſſon have a ſort, in which the wings and tail are browniſh aſh-colour: and that part dingy, which in the common ſort is yellow. In young birds of the common ſort the head is grey.

The neſt of the Goldfinch is curiouſly conſtructed of moſs, liver-wort, thiſtle-down, &c. and lined with wool, hair, and the down of the

the ſallow. It lays five eggs, of a whitiſh colour, and marked with deep purple ſpots.

Theſe birds breed twice in a year. In winter they aſſemble in flocks. Generally frequent places where thiſtles grow in abundance, being particularly fond of the ſeeds of thoſe plants.

PLATE CIV.

RALLUS AQUATICUS.

WATER RAIL.

GRALLÆ.

Bill roundiſh. Tongue entire, fleſhy. Thighs naked. Toes divided.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill compreſſed, incurvated. Tongue jagged at the end. Body compreſſed. Tail ſhort. Toes four divided to the baſe.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Wings olive-brown with black ſpots. Sides of the lower part of the belly marked with white.

RALLUS AQUATICUS. Alis griſeis fuſco maculatis, hypochondriis albo maculatis, roſtro ſubtus fulvo. *Lath. Ind. Orn. 2. 755. 1.*

RALLUS AQUATICUS. *Linn. Syſt. I. p. 262. 2.*
Gmel. Syſt. I. p. 712.

Schæff.

PLATE CIV.

Schæff. El. t. 60.
Muller, No. 219.
Scop. Ann. I. No. 155.
Klein. av. p. 103. 2.

Gallinula aquatica, *Mars. Dan. v. p.* 68. *t.* 32.
Gallina ſerica Geſneri, *Raii. Syn. p.* 114. *A.* 4.
Ralla aquatica. *Aldr. av.* 3. 179.
Gallina Cinerea. *Geſner. av.* 515.
Water Rail, Bilcock.
Brook-Ouzel. *Br. Zool.* 2. *No.* 214. *t.* 75.
Albin. I. t. 77.
Will. Orn. p. 314.
Lè Rale d'eau, *Buff.* 8. *p.* 154. *t.* 13.
—— *pl. enl.* 749.
Brif. av. 151. *tab.* 12. *fig.* 2.
Waſſer hennl. *Kram.* 348.
Jord-Koene. *Brunnich,* 193.

This is the only ſpecies of its genus we have in Britain. Briſſon and Linnæus place it with the Land Rail or Crake, and Ray with the Water Hens. Pennant obſerving the difference between the eſſential characters of the two latter tribes, and that of the Water Rail, conſtitutes a new genus of our ſpecies. The Water Rail is diſtinguiſhed by its ſlender, compreſſed and incurvated bill. The Crake (Gallinule) by the baſe of the upper mandible reaching far upon the forehead, and being membranaceous: the bill is alſo thick at the baſe, and ſloping to the point.

The

PLATE CIV.

The length of the Water Rail is twelve inches, breadth ſixteen inches, weight four ounces. It frequents the ruſhy and ſheltered ſides of rivulets and ponds, among which it can conceal itſelf from danger. It is a very ſhy bird. Flies indifferently, but walks with great celerity, and has been ſeen to run on the ſurface of the water when there has been any weeds to bear it up *.

The Egg is more than an inch and an half in length; of a pale yellowiſh colour, marked with duſky ſpots.

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* Latham.

PLATE CV.

FALCO OSSIFRAGUS.

SEA EAGLE.

ACCIPITRES.

Birds of prey. Bill and claws ſtrong, hooked, an angle in each margin of the upper mandible. Body muſcular. Females larger than the males.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill arched from the baſe, which is covered with a wax-like membrane or cere.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Cere and legs yellow; the latter feathered half-way down. Body brown. Tail marked on interior webs with white.

FALCO OSSIFRAGUS: *Lin. Syſt. Nat.*

FALCO OSSIFRAGUS: cere lutea pedibuſque ſemilanatis, corpore ferrugineo, rectricibus latere interiore albis. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 1. *p.* 12. 7.

PLATE CV.

Haliætus ſeu Offifraga. *Raii. Syn. p.* 71. *No.* 3.
Haliætos. *Turneri.*
Sea Eagle. *Will. Orn. p.* 59. *t.* 1.
Br. Zool. 1. *p.* 167. *t.* 17.
Lath. Gen. Syn.
Bone-breaker, *Kolb. Cap.* 2. *p.* 137.
Le Grand Aigle de Mer. *Brif. Orn.* 1. *p.* 437. *No.* 9.
L'Orfraie, *Buff. Oif.* 1. *p.* 112. *t.* 3.
Le Grand Aigle de Mer. *Pl. enl.* 415. *(fem.)*
Gaas Orn. *Brunnich.* 13.
Bein-brecher, Offifraga.
Meeradler, Fiſch-arn, Haliætos. *Geſn. av.* 201. 203.

This ſpecies is little inferior in ſize to the Golden Eagle. The length is three feet ſix inches; it is a ſtout bird, and is armed with formidable talons: it may be diſtinguiſhed from the Golden Eagle by the legs, which are, for half their length, bare of feathers in the Sea Eagle: the legs of the Golden Eagle, on the contrary, are feathered to the toes.

It inhabits moſt parts of Europe. In theſe kingdoms it is found, in Scotland and Ireland; and ſometimes, though rarely, in England. Our ſpecimen was ſhot in the *Hebrides*. It is obſerved of this ſpecies, that it grows much larger in North America than in Europe. In Ruſſia and Siberia it is very common.

This Bird lives chiefly on Fiſh, which it takes in the ſame manner as the Oſprey. It is ſuppoſed that the Eagle mentioned by *Kolben*, is

is this ſpecies; he ſays, at the *Cape of Good Hope* it feeds on the Land Tortoiſes, which it carries into the air to a conſiderable height, and, by letting it fall on ſome rock, daſhes the ſhell in pieces, that it may more eaſily pick out the fleſh.

PLATE CVI.

FULICA ATRA.

COMMON COOT.

GRALLÆ.

Bill roundiſh. Tongue entire, fleſhy. Thighs naked. Toes divided.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſhort; from this a callus extends up the forehead. Noſtrils narrow. Toes furniſhed with a broad ſcalloped membrane.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

A thin ſkin covers the fore-part of the ſkull. Body black. Feet lobed or ſcalloped.

FULICA ATRA, fronte calva, corpore nigro, digitis lobatis. *Lin. Syſt. Nat.*

FULICA ATRA, fronte incarnata, armillis luteis, corpore nigricante. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. 777. 1.

Fulica recentiorum. *Geſner. av.* 390.

PLATE CVI.

Common Coot. *Raii. Syn. p.* 116. *A.* 1.
Will. Orn. p. 319. *pl.* 59.
Albin. I. pl. 83.
Penn. Br. Zool. No. 220. *pl.* 77.
Arct. Zool. No. 416.
Lath. Gen. Syn. 5. 275. 1.
— *Suppl.* 259.

La Foulque, ou Morelle, *Brif. Orn.* 6. *p.* 23. 1. *pl.* 2. *fig.* 2.
Buff. Oif. 8. *p.* 211. *pl.* 18.—*Pl. enl.* 197.

Folago o Polon. *Zinan.* 108.

Blas-klacka. *Faun. Suec. fp.* 193.

Liſka. *Scopoli. No.* 149.

Kleiner Blœſsling, *Gunth. Neſt. u. eg. t.* 29.

Danis Vand-Hoene,

Bles-Hoene. *Brun.* 190.

Theſe Birds are common in the ſummer throughout England, and are ſometimes met with in the winter: it frequents ſeveral northern countries, ſuch as Sweden, Norway, Ruſſia, Siberia, Greenland, &c. It is alſo found in Jamaica, in Carolina, and other parts of North America.

It frequents the borders of ponds and lakes, and makes its neſt among the reeds, graſs, &c. The neſt is large, and contains fourteen or fifteen, ſome ſay twenty eggs, two inches and a quarter in length, of a pale browniſh white, ſprinkled with minute chocolate-coloured ſpots, in a very regular manner.

The

PLATE CVI.

The food conſiſts of ſmall Fiſh and water Inſects, grain, roots of plants, &c. which it takes partly by diving into the water. The adult birds are as large as a ſmall fowl. The colour of the ſkin on the forehead, Briſſon ſays, is of a full red; Latham ſays it is white, except in the ſeaſon of incubation, when it is not of a full red, though it is tinged with that colour.

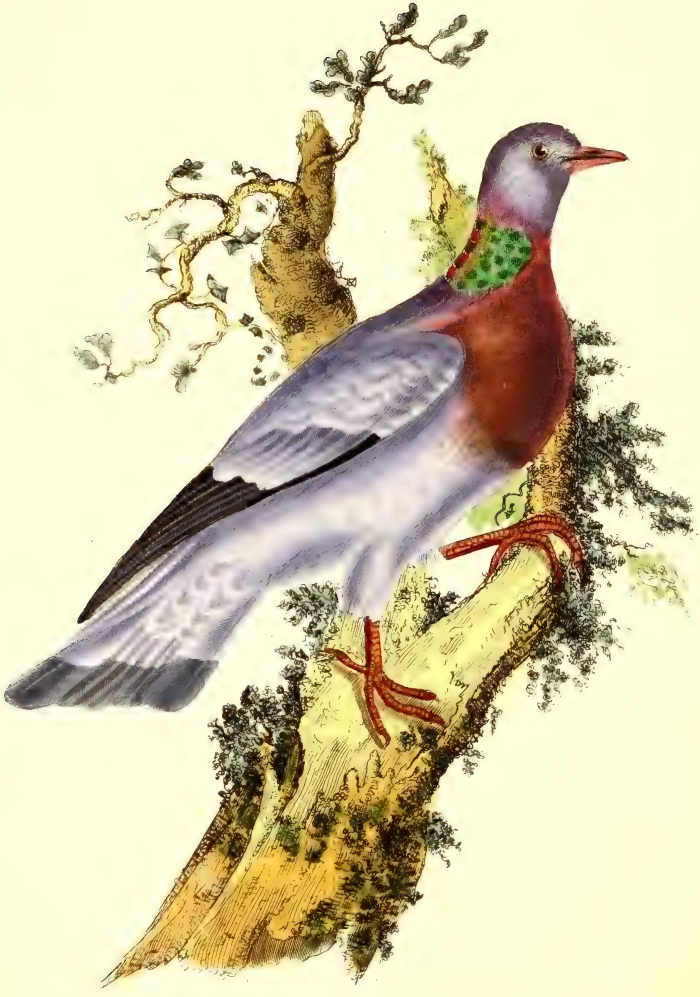

PLATE CVII.

COLUMBA OENAS.

STOCK PIGEON.

PASSERES.

Bill conic, pointed. Noſtrils oval, broad, naked.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſoft, ſtrait. Noſtrils half covered by a naked ſkin. Toes divided to their origin.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Bluiſh. Back of the neck ſhining green, changeable. Two ſmall black bars acroſs the wings. End of the tail black.

COLUMBA ŒNAS. *Linn. Syſt. Nat.*

Columba Œnas: cæruleſcens, cervice viridi-nitente, dorſo poſtico cinereaſcente, faſcia alarum duplici apiceque caudæ nigricante. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. 589. 1.

Columba, lignorum proprie, *Klein. av. p.* 119. 8.—*Id. ov. p.* 33.

Stock Pigeon, or Stock Dove. *Br. Zool.*—*Arct. Zool.*

Albin.

PLATE CVII.

Albin. 2. *t.* 46.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 4. *p.* 604. 1.—*Suppl. p.* 197.

Le Pigeon ſauvage, *Briſ. Orn. I. p.* 86. *No.* 5.

It is the opinion of Pennant, that all the beautiful varieties of Pigeons, ſo highly eſteemed by *Pigeon-fanciers*, are deſcended originally from one ſpecies, the *Stock Dove*. Latham has, with conſiderable induſtry, arranged theſe *fancy* varieties under their Linnean ſpecific names, which Pennant has omitted. Briſſon imagines that the Roman Pigeon, *Columba Hiſpanica* of Linneus, has given birth to all theſe varieties.

That kind called the *Carrier*, is much celebrated for its particular attachment to its native place. It was anciently uſed in many eaſtern countries to convey letters with expedition; at preſent the cuſtom is not ſo general. *Joinville* ſpeaks of them in the cruſade of St. Louis to Paleſtine; and *Taſſo* in the ſiege of Jeruſalem, &c. The cuſtom of conveying letters by means of theſe Birds, may be traced to a very early period. It is not only related of them, but of Swallows, by *Pliny* and *Ælian*, that they were employed on ſuch ſervice; and the earlieſt poets, who generally intermingled ſome truth with their allegory, made the Dove the meſſenger of the lover, and emblem of innocence,

" Gentle Dove,
" Whither fly'ſt thou from above?"

" From *Anacreon*, friend, I rove,
Bearing *mandates* to his love."

Anacreon, Ode 9, *to Bathyllus.*

All

PLATE CVII.

All writers on Egypt mention the vaſt number of Pigeons that are bred in that part of the world, where they proverbially conſtitute a great portion of the poor huſbandman's eſtate. In Perſia alſo they are bred in immenſe numbers. They are altogether a pleaſing and uſeful ſpecies in whatever country they are domeſticated*.

In a wild ſtate theſe Birds have two broods in a year; in a ſtate of confinement, ſometimes three. They uſually lay two eggs at a time, and ſit from fourteen to ſeventeen days before the young are hatched. They migrate in vaſt multitudes into the ſouth of England at the approach of winter, and return again in ſpring. They frequent woody places, and commonly build in the hollows of decayed trees.

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* Their dung is uſed for tanning leather, is a valuable manure for the land, and is employed in medicine: formerly ſaltpetre was collected from it. It is uſed for many other purpoſes by diſtant nations.—*Vide Lath.*

PLATE

PLATE CVIII.

MOTACILLA LUSCINIA.

NIGHTINGALE.

PASSERES.

Bill conic, pointed. Noſtrils oval, broad, naked.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſlender, weak. Noſtrils ſmall. Exterior toe joined at the under part, to the baſe of the middle one.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Reddiſh above, beneath dirty white. Tail red-brown.

MOTACILLA LUSCINIA. *Linn. Syſt.*

SYLVIA LUSCINIA: rufo-cinerea ſubtus cinereo-alba, rectricibus fuſco-rufis, armillis cinereis. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. 506. 1.

Sylvia Luſcinia. *Scop. ann.* 1. *No.* 227.

Nightingale. *Raii Syn. p.* 78.
Will. Orn. p. 220. *pl.* 41.
Albin. 3. *pl.* 53.

Ruſſ.

PLATE CVIII.

Ruff. Alep. p. 7.

Penn. Br. Zool. No. 1. 145.

—— *Arct. Zool.* 2. *p.* 416. *A.*

Lath. Gen. Syn. 4. 408. 1.—*Suppl.* 180.

Le Roſſignol. *Belon. av.* 335.

Buff. 5. *p.* 81. *t.* 6. *f.* 1.—*Pl. enl.* 615. 2.

Slauz. *Scopoli. No.* 227.

Nachtergahl. *Faun. Suec. Sp.* 244.

Nattergale. *Brun.*

Nachtigall. *Friſch.* 1. 21.

Au-vogel, Auen-nachtigall. *Kram.* 376.

Ruſignulo. *Zinan.* 54.

The Nightingale is very common in England, except in the northern parts, where it is never ſeen. It comes in the beginning of April, and leaves us in Auguſt. It is found in Sweden, Germany, France, Italy, Greece, China, and Japan. The female makes her neſt in a low coppice or quickſet hedge, that is thickly cloathed with foliage. It is compoſed of hay, and reeds, intermingled with oak leaves, &c. She lays four or five eggs of a greeniſh brown colour. The male ſcarcely differs from the female.

In the evening the Nightingale begins a ſong that continues till morning. Concealed in ſome thicket, this charming ſongſter pours forth thoſe melodious ſtrains, whoſe harmony, ſweetneſs and variety, combine to fill the mind with ſoft emotions of ſenſibility, and endear ſolitude to the contemplative man. The Nightingale is the favourite of every rural poet, and the loftieſt *genius* has conſtantly noticed it in his ſolemn deſcriptions of evening, or of night.

" The

PLATE CVIII.

" —— The wakeful bird
Sings darkling, and in ſhadieſt covert hid
Tunes her nocturnal note."

" —— The amorous bird of night
Sung ſpouſal, and bid haſte the evening ſtar
On his hill-top to light the bridal lamp."

Milton's Paradiſe Loſt.

The Nightingale is ſometimes kept in cages. Thoſe reared from the neſt are better than ſuch as are caught in a wild ſtate, becauſe they ſing throughout the year, except in the time of moulting. Thoſe which are caught begin to ſing about ſix or eight days after. Mr. Latham ſays, that neither this nor the *Blackcap* is found in Ireland. Mr. Pennant ſays it does not inhabit Scotland, though *Sibbald* places it in his liſt of the Birds of that country.

PLATE

PLATE CIX.

PAVO CRISTATUS.

CRESTED PEACOCK.

GALLINÆ.

Bill convex: the upper Mandible arched. Toes connected by a membrane at the bottom. Tail feathers more than twelve.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſtrong, convex. Noſtrils large. Head ſmall, creſted. Spurs on the legs. Feathers above the tail very long, broad, expanſible, conſiſting of ranges of feathers, adorned at their ends with rich ocellated ſpots.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

An erect creſt on the head.

PAVO CRISTATUS: capite criſta erecta. *Linn. Syſt. Nat.* — *Faun. Suec.* 197.
Scop. Ann. 1. *No.* 162.
Brun. p. 58.
Friſch. pl. 118.
Kram. el. p. 355.

PLATE CIX.

Peacock. *Raii Syn. p.* 51. *A.* 2. *p.* 183. 18.
Will. Orn. p. 158. *pl.* 217.
Sloan. Jam. p. 302. *No.* 23.
Brown. Jam. p. 470.

Le Paon. *Brif. Orn.* 1. *p.* 281. *pl.* 27.
Buff. Oif. 2. *p.* 288. *pl.* 10. — *Pl. enl.* 433. (*male*). 434 (*female*).

Pfau, *Gunth. neſt u. Ey. t.* 22.

Pavone, *Zinnan. Uov. p.* 25. *t.* 1. *No.* 1.

In compliance with preceding writers on the ornithology of Great Britain, we have added the *Peacock* to our work: the propriety of placing that magnificent Indian ſpecies, with the humble and ſimple-coloured birds of this country, we preſume not to defend. We may proudly claim it for a Britiſh domeſticated ſpecies, but other nations of Europe have the ſame privilege. Of the beauty of a bird ſo well known, and which has excited admiration in all ages, we can ſay little: language would but feebly expreſs the variety and brilliance of colours that profuſely adorn the plumes of this majeſtic creature.

Peacocks were known three thouſand years ago. In the days of Solomon, the *Tarſhiſh fleet* of that monarch brought them to Jeruſalem. In Greece they were alſo known very early: at Athens they were highly prized. It is ſuppoſed they were carried hence to *Samos*, where they were preſerved near the temple of Juno. The epicures of Greece thought them a delicacy; and the young Pea-fowl is eſteemed among us. It is ſaid, that when Alexander was in India he found vaſt numbers on the banks of the *Hyarotis*, and was ſo de-

lighted with their beauty, that he appointed a puniſhment for thoſe who ſhould kill any of them.—It is alſo found in Africa.

In our climate the Peacock does not come to its full plumage till the third year. The female lays five or ſix greyiſh eggs, the ſize of thoſe of a Turkey: the time of ſitting is from twenty-ſeven to thirty days. The young are fed on barley-meal, chopped leeks, and curd; the old ones on *wheat*, *barley*, &c.

It is an Italian proverb, that the Peacock has the appearance of an angel, and voice of the devil; for its cry is exceedingly inharmonious. In India, it is related, that they are taken by carrying lights to the trees where they rooſt, and having painted repreſentations of the bird preſented to them at the ſame time: when they put out the neck to look at the figure, the ſportſman ſlips the nooſe over their heads and ſecures them. It is ſaid alſo, that the inhabitants of the mountains on both ſides of the *Ganges* take them with a kind of *bird-lime*, made from oils and the juices of certain trees.

As we believe a figure of that ſuperb variety of the common Peacock, *Le Paon Panachē* of Buffon, would be more acceptable to the reader than the ſort which ſo frequently occurs, we have preferred it for this work. It is a moſt ſuperb and elegantly variegated ſpecimen: and we only regret that the limits of our plate, and imperfect ſtate of that imitative art, colouring, will not permit us to do juſtice to its incomparable beauty. The original meaſures ſeven feet, of which the train forms a conſiderable part. This appendage, which is uſually miſtaken for the tail itſelf, riſes from the back and deſcends to a vaſt length. The tail is not more than one foot and an half in length, and conſiſts of eighteen browniſh-grey feathers. The female has a very ſhort train, and the ſpurs are generally wanting.

PLATE CX.

FULICA CHLOROPUS.

WATER HEN, OR COMMON GALLINULE.

GRALLÆ.

Bill roundiſh. Tongue entire, fleſhy. Thighs naked. Toes divided.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſhort, thick, convex. Forehead bare. Toes finned.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Callus and garters red. Above deep olive, beneath cinereous. Outer edge of the wing, and tail coverts white.

FULICA CHLOROPUS. *Linn. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 258. 4.—*Gmel. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 698.

Fulica chloropus major. *Raii Syn. p.* 113. *A.* 1.—*Will. Orn. p.* 233. 5. 58.

Chloropus major noſtra. *Aldr. av.* 3. 177.

PLATE CX.

Gallinella aquatica. *Zinan.* 109.

GALLINULA CHLOROPUS. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. *p.* 770. 13.

Common Water-Hen, or Moor-Hen. *Will. Orn.*
Raii. Syn.
Albin. II. pl. 72. 3. *pl.* 91.

Common Gallinule. *Br. Zool. No.* 217. *pl.* 77.
Lath. Gen. Syn. 5. *p.* 258. *ſp.* 12.

Poule d'eau. *Buff.* 8. *p.* 171. *t.* 15.—*Pl. enl.* 877.
Briſ. Orn. 6. *p.* 3. 1. *pl.* 1. *fig.* 1, 2.

Waſſerhennl. *Kram.* 358.

Length of this ſpecies fourteen inches, breadth twenty-one, weight fifteen ounces. It is a common bird in this country, frequents the ſides of rivers and ponds, and is ſuppoſed to feed on ſmall fiſh, and on plants.

It has two or three broods in the ſummer; the neſt is uſually placed on a low ſtump near the water, and contains ſeven eggs of a dirty white colour, ſparingly ſpeckled and ſpotted with ruſt colour, and nearly two inches in length. The female is ſmaller than the male, the colours are throughout much paler, and the throat is ſometimes white; in ſome birds it is grey, in others the colour of the reſt of the neck.

PLATE CXI.

ANAS GLACIALIS.

LONG-TAILED DUCK.

ANSERES.

Bill obtuſe, covered with a thin membrane, broad, gibbous below the baſe, ſwelled at the apex. Tongue fleſhy. Legs naked. Feet webbed or finned.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill broad, depreſſed, hooked at the apex, with membranous teeth. Noſtrils oval, ſmall. Tongue broad, edges fringed near the baſe. Feet, — middle toe longeſt.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Tail long, pointed. Body black, beneath white.

ANAS GLACIALIS. *Lin. Syſt. Nat. p.* 203. 20.

ANAS HYEMALIS. *Lin. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 202, 29.

ANAS GLACIALIS, cauda acuminata elongata, corpore nigro ſubtus albo. (*mas adultus.*) *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. *p.* 864. 82.

PLATE CXI.

LONG-TAILED DUCK. *Edw. v.* 280.
Penn. Br. Zool. 283.
Lath. Gen. Syn. 6. *p.* 528. 73.
Swallow-tailed Shieldrake. *Will. Orn. p.* 364.
Le Canard a longue queue d'Iſlande. *Brif. Orn.* 6. 379.
Canard de Miclon. *Buff. Oiſ.—Pl. Enl.* 1008.

This ſpecies varies exceedingly in the colours of the plumage. In ſome the principal colour is a kind of chocolate brown, in others deep black. It varies no leſs alſo in the diſpoſition of the white ſpaces on the head, neck, and body in different birds. In the male, the fore part and ſides of the head are of a reddiſh grey, with an oval black ſpot on each ſide of the neck, a little below the head; the remainder of the neck white. The female has only the ſides of the head white (except the belly), the neck being of a duſky black in general; though ſpecimens have been ſeen, that much reſemble the adult male bird. The colour of the legs vary much in different ſpecimens alſo.

Linnæus divided the ſuppoſed male and female into two ſpecies; the firſt he called ANAS GLACIALIS, the other ANAS HYEMALIS. Later authors, who have had more opportunity of obſerving their manners of life, have ſuppoſed them only the two ſexes of one ſpecies.

Mr. Pennant, in his *Arctic Zoology*, *appen.* deſcribes the two Linnæan ſpecies as the two ſexes of ANAS GLACIALIS; and Mr. Latham ſince, in his *Index Ornithologicus*, places Anas Glacialis as the

the adult male; this is the bird which Buffon calls, *canard à longue queue*; that which Ray terms *Anas caudacuta, Havelda*, Mr. Latham deſcribes as the *young male. (β)* The female had been deſcribed by Mr. Pennant in the Arctic Zoology*: Mr. Latham makes it the (γ.) of Anas Glacialis:—the ſame author has added further, the Querquedula ferroenſis, of Briſſon, or *Sarcelle de Ferroe*, of Buffon, as the (δ.) of the ſame ſpecies.

Theſe Birds frequent the more northern parts of the world, ſuch as *Sweden, Lapland, Greenland*, &c. and only viſit the Engliſh coaſts in very rigorous winters. In the Orknies they are ſeen in flocks from October to April. Theſe Birds living chiefly on the water, dive and ſwim well, and ſubſiſt on ſmall ſhell-fiſh. They build their neſts among the graſs, &c. on the ſea ſhore. The variety mentioned by Mr. Latham, which is called O'Edel by the inhabitants of the Ferroe iſles, has the black ſtreak down the middle of the crown to the hind head, as in our ſpecimen, from which we have been led to conſider our Bird a variety alſo.

The length of our Bird is twenty-one inches.

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* Vol. II. p. 76.

PLATE CXII.

SCOLOPAX CALIDRIS.

RED SHANK.

GRALLÆ.

Bill roundiſh. Tongue entire, fleſhy. Thighs naked. Toes divided.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill long, ſlender, ſtrait, weak. Noſtrils linear. Tongue pointed. Toes divided, back toes ſmall.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Beak and feet red. Body aſh-colour. Secondaries of the wings tipped with white.

SCOLOPAX CALIDRIS. *Lin. Syſt. Nat.*

SCOLOPAX CALIDRIS, roſtro rubro, pedibus coccineis, corpore cinereo, remigibus ſecundariis albis. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. 722. 25.

PLATE CXII.

Scolopax Totanus. *Faun. Suec. No.* 167.

* Totanus. *Aldr. av.* 3. 171.

Red Shank or Pool-Snipe. *Will. Orn.* 299.
Raii. Syn. av. 107.
Albin. 3. *t.* 87.
Br. Zool. 2. *No.* 184. *t.* 65.
Lath. Gen. Syn. Vol. 5. 150. 20.
—— *Suppl.* 245. 20.

Chevalier aux pieds rouges. *Buff.* 7. *p.* 513. *t.* 28.

Le Chevalier. *Brif. Orn.* 5. *p.* 188. 4. *pl.* 17. *fig.* 1.

Glareola. *Klein. av. p.* 101. 1.

Rothfufstler. *Kram.* 353.

Gallinula erythropus. *Gefner. av.* 504.

The length of this Bird is twelve inches, its breadth twenty-one inches, and its weight exceeds five ounces. In this country thefe birds are not uncommon, except in the northern parts. They frequent fens and marfhes in the breeding feafon, but feparate and conceal themfelves in the winter.

Its noife is fimilar to that of the lapwing, whofe manners it alfo imitates when it is difturbed. It lays four eggs, of a whitifh olive

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* Albin fays, " This bird is not the *Totanus* of *Aldrovandus*;" he adds, " This is much lefs, has a fhorter bill and feet, and differs in the dufky colour of its back, and the red colour of its legs and feet."—*Alb. p.* 82. *Vol.* 3.

colour,

colour, marked with irregular black ſpots. In winter the colours of theſe Birds become paler.

The Redſhank is found in moſt parts of Europe and America. Mr. Latham deſcribes a variety of this ſpecies from the drawings of the late Dr. Fothergill, which inhabits the marſhes of China.

PLATE CXIII.

STRIX FLAMMEA.

WHITE OWL.

ACCIPITRES.

Birds of prey. Bill and claws ſtrong, hooked, an angle in the margin of the upper mandible. Body muſcular. Females larger and more beautiful than the males. *

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill hooked, without cere. Noſtrils covered with briſtly feathers. Head large. Eyes and ears very large. Tongue bifid.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Head ſmooth. Body yellowiſh, with white ſpots. Beneath white, with pale black ſpots.

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* Mr. Latham has a note on this character of the owls in page 46, Supplement, in which he ſays, that in ſuch of the owl genus as he has ſeen, the male was larger than the female, and therefore the owls differ in that reſpect from all other birds of prey.

PLATE CXIII.

STRIX FLAMMEA: *Lin. Syſt. Nat.*

STRIX FLAMMEA: capite lævi, corpore luteo punctis albis, ſubtus albido punctis nigricantibus. *Lath. Ind. Orn. T.* 1. *p.* 60. 28.

Aluco minor. *Aldr. av.* 1. 272.

White Owl. *Br. Zool.* 1. *No.* 67.

Lath. Gen. Syn. 1. *p.* 138. *No.* 26.

——— *Suppl. p.* 46. 26.

Common Owl, Howlet, Madge, Gillihowſter, &c. *Will. Orn.* 104. *Raii Syn. av.* 25. *Alb. Vol.* II. *pl.* II.

L'Effraie, ou Freſaie. *Buff.* 1. *p.* 366. *t.* 26. *Pl. Enl.* 440.

Le petit Chat-haunt. *Briſ. av.* 1. 503.

Perl Eule. *Friſch.* 1. 97. *Kramer El. p.* 324. 5.

Alloco *Zinnan.* 99.

It need ſcarcely be ſaid that the white owl is common in every part of England, and is generally found throughout the continent of Europe. It inhabits North and South America, and is very frequent in ſome parts of Aſia. Except in the breeding ſeaſon, it lives in barns and out-houſes, where it is uſeful in deſtroying the mice that infeſt ſuch places. In the breeding ſeaſon it retires to holes in lofty buildings, or the hollows of trees.

Some

PLATE CXIII.

Some ſpecies of owls ſee well in the day-time: the white owl has not that faculty; it is only in the twilight in mornings and evenings, or in moonlight nights, that it can ſee clearly to take its prey. While the young are in the neſt, the male and female go alternately in queſt of food, make a circuit round the fields, drop on their prey inſtantly, and return with it in their claws.

Theſe birds caſt up the fur or feather of the creatures they devour in the form of ſmall pellets, like thoſe of the hawk tribe.

PLATE CXIV.

FRINGILLA LINARIA.

LESSER RED-HEADED LINNET,

OR

REDPOLE.

PASSERES.

Bill conic, pointed. Noſtrils oval, broad, naked.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, ſlender towards the end, and ſharp pointed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Duſky and reddiſh brown, varied with black. Belly whitiſh. Two whitiſh bars on the wing coverts. Pole of the head, and the breaſt red.

FRINGILLA LINARIA. *Lin. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 322. 29. *Fn. Sv.* 241.

FRINGILLA LINARIA, fuſco griſeoque varia, ſubtus albo-rufeſcens, faſcia alarum duplici albida, vertice pectoreque rubris. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 1. *p.* 458. 83.

Linaria

PLATE CXIV.

Linaria rubra minor. *Raii Syn. p.* 91. *A.* 3. *Will. p.* 191. *t.* 46.
Leſſer red-headed Linnet, or Redpole. *Br. Zool. No.* 132. *t.* 54.
Lath. Gen. Syn. 3. 305. 75.
Suppl. pl. 167.
Le petite Linotte de Vignes. *Brif. Orn.* 3. *p.* 138. 31.
Le Sizerin. *Buf. Oif.* 4. *p.* 216.
Graſiſka. *Faun. Suec. ſp.* 241.
Graſel, Meerzeiſel.
Tſchotſcherl. *Kram.* 369.
Rothplattige Stænfling. *Friſch.* t. 10.

All the Finches except the Siſkin are ſuppoſed to continue in theſe kingdoms throughout the year; but ſhift to different parts according to the ſeaſons. The Redpole is known to breed in the mountains of Wales *. Mr. Pennant ſaw the neſt of this ſpecies on an alder ſtump near a brook, about two or three feet from the ground. The outſide was compoſed of dried ſtalks of graſs, and other plants, intermixed with a little wool: it was lined with hair and a few feathers. The eggs, four in number, were of a pale bluiſh green, thickly ſprinkled near the blunt end with ſmall reddiſh ſpots.

In October and November theſe birds arrive near London in vaſt numbers. The colours of the female are generally paler than thoſe of the male: the ſpot on the forehead is ſaffron colour.

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* Barrington Miſcel. p. 217.

PLATE

PLATE CXV.

LOXIA PYRRHULA.

BULFINCH.

PASSERES.

Bill conic, pointed. Noſtrils oval, broad, naked.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſtrong, convex above and below, and thick at the baſe. Noſtrils ſmall and round. Tongue truncated at the end. Toes placed three before, and one behind.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Head, wings, tail, black. Upper tail, coverts, and vent white.

LOXIA PYRRHULA artubus nigris, tectricibus caudæ remigumque poſticarum albis. *Linn. Syſt.—Fn. Sv.* 178.
Scop. Ann. 1. *No.* 202.
Faun. Arag. p. 86.
Sepp. Vog. t. p. 133.
Schæff. Elem. Orn. t. 59.

F Rubicilla,

PLATE CXV.

Rubicilla, ſive pyrrhula. *Geſner. av.* 733.

Coccothrauſtes ſanguinea. *Klein. Av. p.* 95. 5.—*Id. Stem. p.* 19. *t.* 19. *f.* 13. *a. b.*—*Georgi Reiſe, p.* 174.

Bulfinch, Alp, or Nope, *Will. Orn.* 247.
Raii Syn. p. 86. *A.*
Albin. I. pl. 59. 60.
Br. Zool. 1. *No.* 116.
Lath. Gen. Syn. 3. *p.* 143. 51.
—— *Suppl. p.* 152. 51.
—— *Ind. Orn.* 1. *p.* 387.

Le Bouvreuil. *Briſſon. av.* 3. 308.
Buff. Oiſ. 4. *p.* 372. *pl.* 17.

Monachino, Sufolotto. *Zinan.* 58.

Domherre. *Faun. Suec. ſp.* 225.

Gumpel. *Gunth. Neſt. u. Ey. t.* 54.

Gumpl. *Kramer.* 365.

Gimpl. *Scopoli, No.* 202.

Cuifolotto. *Olina,* 40.

Blutfinck. *Friſch.* 1. 2.

Le Pivoine. *Belon av.* 3. 59.

The male of this common but beautiful Bird is diſtinguiſhed from the female by the rich black colour on the crown of the head, and the crimſon on the cheeks, breaſt, belly, and throat, thoſe parts being of an obſcure hue in the female.

In the winter and ſpring it frequents gardens, and does much injury to the fruit-trees. In ſummer it retires into the woods to breed. It forms a neſt chiefly of moſs, about ſix feet from the ground,

ground, and depoſits five or ſix bluiſh eggs, marked with dark ſpots. The wild note of this Bird is not admired, though they may be taught to whiſtle any tune in a tame ſtate, and are then much valued.

There are ſeveral varieties of this ſpecies, one of them in particular, is entirely black. Inſtances are recorded of theſe birds, after being taken in full feather, in the courſe of three or four years becoming jet black, and then again recovering their former colours.

PLATE CXVI.

GALLINULA CREX.

CRAKE GALLINULE.

GRALLÆ.

Bill roundiſh. Tongue entire, fleſhy. Thighs naked. Toes divided.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill thick at the baſe, ſloping towards the point: baſe of the upper mandible reaching far on the forehead, callous. Body compreſſed. Wings ſhort and concave. Tail ſhort. Toes divided to their origin.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Above, greyiſh brown, middle of each feather black. Wings rufous brown. Beneath, reddiſh white.

RALLUS CREX. *Lin. Syſt. Nat.*

GALLINULA CREX: griſea pennis medio nigricantibus, alis rufo-ferrugineis, corpore ſubtus albo-rufeſcente. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. 766. 1.

PLATE CXVI.

Porphyrio rufeſcens, *Briſ.* 5. *p.* 533.

Darker Hen, or Rail, *Raii Syn. p.* 58. *A.* 8.
Will. Orn. p. 170. *pl.* 29.
Albin. 1. *pl.* 32.

Corn-crek. *Sib. Scot.* 16.

Land Hen. *Will. Orn. p.* 316.

Crake Gallinule. *Br. Zool. No.* 216. *pl.* 75.—*Arct. Zool. No.* 412.
Lath. Gen. Syn. 5. *p.* 250. 1.

Le Râle de Genet, ou Roi des Cailles, *Briſ. Orn.* 5. *p.* 159. *pl.* 13?
f. 2.

La Poule-Sultane rouſſatre, *Briſ. Orn. v. p.* 533. 5.

Re delle Quaglia. *Zinan.*

Wieſen Schnarre, Wachtel Koenig, *Gunth. Neſt. u. Ey. t.* 45.

Wachtel-konig. *Kram.* 349.

Roſtz. *Scopoli, No.* 154.

This Bird is common in many parts of Great-Britain in ſummer, and departs before winter, except in Ireland, where it is ſuppoſed they remain throughout the year. Being conſtantly found in company with the Quails, the Crake has been called in many countries, their king, or leader.

Independent of a ſtriking generical difference, the manners of theſe birds are altogether diſtinct from thoſe of the Water Rail, with which it has been ſometimes confounded. It is found among *corn*, *graſs*, *broom*, or *furze* on heaths, and never in watery places. It lays ten or twelve eggs of a reddiſh white colour, marked with ferruginous blotches: feeds on all kinds of inſects, and on grain; and its fleſh is much eſteemed.

Length

PLATE CXVI.

Length of this ſpecies is nine inches and a half; weight, from ſix to eight ounces. Its note has been compared to the word *Crek* often repeated; and hence its name, Crake.

PLATE CXVII.

CORVUS CORNIX.

HOODED CROW.

PICÆ.

Bill compreſſed, convex.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſtrong conic, with briſtles at the baſe. Tongue cleft at the end.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Aſh colour. Head, throat, wings, and tail, black.

CORVUS CORNIX. *Lin. Syſt. Nat.*

CORVUS CORNIX: cineraſcens, capite jugulo alis caudaque nigris. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 1. 153. 7.

Cornix cinerea, *Brif. Orn.* 2. *p.* 19. 4.

Cornix nigra Monedula, *Ger. Orn.* 2. *p.* 35. *t.* 146, 147.

PLATE CXVII.

ROYSTON CROW. *Albin.* 2. *t.* 23.
Raii Syn. p. 39. *A.* 4.
Will. Orn. p. 124. *pl.* 18. 77.
HOODED CROW. *Br. Zool.* 1. *No.* 77.
Arct. Zool. 2. *p.* 251. *D.*
Lath. Gen. Syn. 1. *p.* 374. 5.
——— *Suppl. p.* 77.
La Corneille mantelée. *Buff. Oif.* 3. *p.* 61. *t.* 4.
Mulacchia cinerizia, Monachia. *Zinan.*
Kraka. *Faun. Suec. Sp.* 88.
Grave Kran, Kranveitl. *Kramer* 333.
Urana *Scopoli*, *No.* 37.

The Hooded Crow is not uncommon during winter in many parts of England. With us it is a bird of paſſage. In thoſe countries where it breeds, it retreats to the mountains for that time, and deſcends into the plains as the winter approaches. In many parts of Scotland it is the only ſpecies of crow known, and in the northern iſlands and mountains, it is ſaid to remain the whole year.

Like the rook and crow, this Bird feeds on carrion and the offals of animals; and alſo on ſhell-fiſh, which they find on the banks of rivers; at other times, on ſeeds and grain, and mountain-berries. They are more elegant and varied in their plumage than the common crow, but not leſs miſchievous to young birds, or any wounded

wounded or defenceleſs animals. Their neſts are built in trees, and commonly contain ſix eggs. The length of this Bird is twenty-one inches.

PLATE CXVIII.

TANTALUS IGNEUS.

GLOSSY IBIS.

GRALLÆ.

Bill roundiſh. Tongue entire, fleſhy. Thighs naked. Toes divided.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill long, thick at the baſe, incurvated. Face naked, noſtrils linear. Tongue ſhort. Toes connected by a membrane.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Very gloſſy, general colour blackiſh; variegated with red, blue, and green. Head and neck black, tips of the feathers whitiſh.

TANTALUS

PLATE CXVIII.

TANTALUS IGNEUS: corpore nigricante cœruleo viridi et vinaceo variegato-nitente, capite colloque nigris pennis albido fimbriatus. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. *p.* 708. 16.

Tantalus igneus, *Gmel. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 649.

Numenius igneus, N. C. *Petr.* 15. *p.* 460. *t.* 18.

Gloſſy Ibis. *Lath. Gen. Syn.* 5. *p.* 115. 14.

The Gloſſy Ibis is extremely rare in this country. It is not noticed by Mr. Pennant in the laſt editions of the Britiſh Zoology. Dr. Latham has placed it in his liſt of Britiſh Birds, but mentions only one inſtance of its being found in England. "In the *Leverian Muſeum* is one of theſe, which was ſhot in Cornwall." *Lath. Gen. Syn. v.* 5.

Our ſpecimen of this ſpecies, we are informed, was alſo ſhot in England, and on diſſection proved to be a male. Whether the ſpecimen from which Dr. Latham's deſcription is taken, differed in ſex from this, we are unable to determine. The deſcription does not exactly agree with our bird; and the ſpecimen referred to, is removed from the Leverian collection. In the deſcription, the eyes are placed in a white ſpace: the eyes in our Bird are ſurrounded with black. The legs are alſo deſcribed of an olive colour in the dead bird, and green when living; thoſe parts appear reddiſh in our preſerved ſpecimen: we had no opportunity of obſerving the true colour in the living bird; but it muſt certainly have been more of a red,

a red, or at leaſt reddiſh brown, than olive. Neither of theſe differences, however, affect the eſſential character of the ſpecies; and we conſider our bird, beyond diſpute, the *Gloſſy Ibis* of Dr. Latham. The length of this Bird exceeds twenty-two inches.

PLATE CXIX.

EMBERIZA CITRINELLA.

YELLOW HAMMER.

PASSERES.

Bill conic, pointed. Noſtrils oval, broad, naked.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill conic, the ſides of each mandible bending inwards; a hard knob in the roof of the upper mandible.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Crown of the head, throat, and belly, yellow. Tail dark: feathers edged with olive, the two outmoſt with white, and a white ſpot on the interior ſides, at the tip of each.

EMBERIZA CITRINELLA: rectricibus nigricantibus, extimis duobus latere interiore macula alba acuta. *Lin. Syſt. Nat.*
Lath. Ind. Orn. 1. 400. 7.

EMBERIZA FLAVA. *Geſner. av.* 653.
Klein. av. p. 92. 5.
Brif. 3. 258. 1.

Yellow

PLATE CXIX.

Yellow Hammer, *Raii Syn. p.* 93. *A.* 2.
Will. Orn. p. 268. *pl.* 40.
Albin. 1. *pl.* 66.
Br. Zool. 1. *No.* 119. *pl.* 50.
Arct. Zool.

Yellow Bunting. *Lath. Gen. Syn. Vol.* 3. 170. 7.

Le Bruant, *Brif. Orn.* 3. *p.* 258. 1.
Buff. Oif. 4. *p.* 342. *pl.* 8.
—— *Pl. Enl.* 30. 1.

Cia pagglia riccia, Luteæ alterum genus. *Aldr. av.* 2. 372.

Sternardt. *Scopoli. No.* 209.

Zivolo, Zigolo. *Olin. uc. t. p.* 50.

Ammering, Goldammering. *Kram.* 370.

Groning, Goldfpink. *Faun. Suec. Sp.* 230.

This is a very abundant fpecies throughout Europe. In England, its manners of life are fo well known, that we avoid entering into a minute detail of them. The colours of the female are dull; and it has fcarcely any yellow about the head.—The male is a very pretty bird; liable, however, to variation in different fpecimens. In fome, the head is brown, in others yellow, marked with brown; in birds of fine plumage it is of a beautiful yellow; the colours throughout very full, with the yellow delicately blended into the olive, and have a fine effect.

Thefe Birds feed on grain and infects. They make a large neft of hay and ftraw, mixed with mofs, and dried leaves, and lined with

with hair and wool. The neſt is generally placed on the ground, or in a low buſh. It lays five or ſix eggs, veined irregularly with purpliſh or brown colour, and ſparingly blotched with the ſame. There is more than one brood of this ſpecies in the year.

PLATE CXX.

STERNA SANDVICENCIS.

SANDWICH TERN.

ANSERES.

Bill obtuſe, covered with a thin membrane, broad, gibbous below the baſe, ſwelled at the apex. Tongue fleſhy. Legs naked. Feet webbed or finned.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſtrait, ſlender, pointed. Noſtrils linear, Tongue ſlender and ſharp. Wings very long. A ſmall back toe. Tail forked.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

White. Back and wings pale, hoary, lead colour. Upper part of the head black; front ſpeckled and white. Outer margins of the quill feathers black. Shafts white.

STERNA SANDVICENSIS. *Lath. Suppl. Gen. Syn.*

STERNA BOYSII: alba, dorſo aliſque canis, pileo nigro, fronte maculis albis, remigibus nigricantibus ſcapo albo. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. 806. 10.

PLATE CXX.

Sterna Cantiaca. *Gmel. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 606.
Sandwich Tern. *Lath. Syn.* 6. *p.* 356. 9.—*Boy's Sandwich.*

Young *bird*, or variety *β*.

Sterna Nivæa, cauda emarginato, corpore variegato, macula aurium nigra. *Linn.*
Rallus lariformis. *Scop. Ann.* 1. *No.* 156.
La Guifette. *Buff. Oiſ.* 8. *p.* 339.—*Pl. enl.* 924.

This is certainly the new ſpecies of Tern, which has been found on the Sandwich coaſt, and deſcribed under the name *Sandvicenſis* * by Mr. Latham: Our ſpecimen does not preciſely agree with the deſcription given by that author; but the following conſiderations ſeem to juſtify our concluſion.

The plumage of many Birds differ conſiderably in colours and markings in the various ſtages of their growth; and even in the adult ſtate, we frequently obſerve varieties which it is difficult to refer to their true ſpecies.—From the general appearance of the Bird before us, it has been thought the young of the common Tern, and it ſtands for ſuch in the Leverian Muſeum: It cannot however be the young Bird of that ſpecies; in the *contour* it is obviouſly different, and the form of the beak, with other ſtriking peculiarities, muſt certainly remove it from that ſpecies.

---

* Catalogue of Britiſh Birds. Vide Supplement of Synopſis. Altered to Sterna Boyſii in *Index Orn.*

Mr.

PLATE CXX.

Mr. Latham, in deſcribing the Sandwich Tern, ſays, the back and wings are a pale hoary lead colour, and in the young Birds are much clouded with brown: he ſays alſo the head is much dotted with white in ſome ſpecimens; but obſerves, that all Terns with black heads are liable to the ſame variation *. Thus far our ſpecimen may be conſidered as the Sandwich Tern; but the colour of the legs and claws of that Bird is uniformly ſaid to be black, while in ours they are orange: this is however accidental, and by no means a permanent character; the orange-coloured legs and feet is ſtriking, but not invariable in the Common Tern, as is proved by the variety β. with black feet, deſcribed by Mr. Latham in the Index Ornithologicus †; we alſo find a ſpecimen of the Sandwich Tern in the Britiſh Muſeum, which has the legs and feet of a dull yellowiſh or orange colour, and differs from the ſpecimen we have figured only in the form of the tail, which is not forked as in the adult Birds.

The *Sterna Nævia* of Linnæus, and *La Guiffette* of Buffon, is conſidered by Mr. Latham as the young Bird of the Sandwich Tern. Our ſpecimen differs very little from the deſcriptions given by theſe authors.

Length of our Bird fourteen inches. It was ſhot in the Chelſea road.

---

* In the adult common Tern, the black of the head extends to the baſe of the bill; in the Sandwich Tern the forehead is white.

† Sterna Hirundo. β. *var.* pedibus nigris, rectricibus extimis toto albis. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. 808. 15.—*Phil. Tranſ.* lxii. *p.* 421. *Forſter.*

PLATE

PLATE CXXI.

STRIX STRIDULA.

TAWNY OWL.

Accipitres.

Birds of prey. Bill and Claws ſtrong hooked, an angle in the margin of the upper mandible. Body muſcular. Females larger and more beautiful than the males.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill hooked, without cere. Noſtrils covered with briſtly feathers. Head large. Eyes and ears very large. Tongue bifid.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Head ſmooth. Body reddiſh, or tawny brown. White ſpots on the wing.

Strix Stridula: capite lævi, corpore ferrugineo, remige tertia longiore. *Lin. Syſt. Nat.—Fn. Suec.* 55.

PLATE CXXI.

Strix. *Aldr. av.* 1. 285.

Strix Orientalis. *Haſſelquiſt, Itin.* 233.

Noctua Major, *Friſch.*

Common Brown, or Ivy Owl. *Will. Orn.* 102. *t.* 14.
—*Albin. I. t.* 9.
Raii Syn. av. 25

Tawny Owl. *Br. Zool. No.* 68.
Lath. Gen. Syn. 1. 139. 27.
—*Ind. Orn.* 1. *p.* 58. 25.

Le Chathaunt. *Briſ. Orn.* 1. *p.* 500. *No.* 1.
Buff. Oiſ. 1. *p.* 362. *t.* 25.
—— *Pl. Enl.* 437.

Braune, oder ſtock Eule. *Friſch. t.* 96. (*maſ.*)

Gelblicke, oder brand Eule. *Friſch. t.* 95. (*fem.*)

Strige. Zinnan. *Uov. p.* 100. *t.* 16. *f.* 89.

Skrik uggla. *Faun. Suec.*

Nacht Eule, Gemeine. *Kram.* 324.

Nat Ugle. *Brun.* 18.

The length of this bird is fourteen inches; breadth thirty-two inches. The male is darker in colour than the female. This kind of owls inhabits woods: in England they remain the whole year. The ſpecies is found throughout Europe and America.

La Chouette, ou Grande Chevêche, of Buffon, is ſuppoſed to be the female of the Tawny Owl; but the deſcription differs in ſome particulars from thoſe ſpecimens we have examined.

PLATE

PLATE CXXII.

RALLUS PORZANA.

SMALL SPOTTED GALLINULE, OR WATER-HEN.

GRALLÆ.

Bill roundiſh. Tongue entire, fleſhy. Thighs naked. Toes divided.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill compreſſed, ſharp. Noſtrils oval. Toes four. Body compreſſed.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Above olive brown, variegated with ſpots and daſhes of black and white: beneath aſh-colour, with white marks.

Rallus Porzana. *Lin. Syſt. Nat.* 1. *p.* 262. 3.—*Gmel. Syſt.* 1. *p.* 712.

Gallinula Porzana: fuſco-olivacea nigro albidoque variegata et maculata, ſubtus cinerea albido varia, rectricibus

duabus intermediis albo marginatis. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. 772. 19.

Rallus aquaticus minor, ſive Mauetta. *Brif.* 5. *p.* 155. 2. *t.* 13. *f.* 1.

Gallinula ochra Geſneri. *Raii Syn. p.* 115. 7.

Spotted Gallinule. *Br. Zool.* 11. *No.* 215. *Lath. Gen. Syn.* 5. *p.* 264. 18.

Petit Rale d'eau, ou le Marouette. *Buff. Oiſ.* 8. *p.* 157.

Kleines geſprenkeltes Waſſerhuhn. *Friſch.* 2. 211.

This elegant ſpecies is ſcarce in Great-Britain. It is of the migratory kind; but is known to breed here. Mr. Latham ſays in Cumberland.

This is a ſolitary creature, living entirely among reeds in marſhy places. The neſt is very ſingular, and is built on the water; it is compoſed of ruſhes matted together in form of a boat, and is faſtened by one end to a reed that it may float in ſecurity on the water while the female ſits on the eggs.

The length of this bird is nine inches.

PLATE CXXIII.

MOTACILLA RUBECULA.

RED-BREAST.

PASSERES.

Bill conic, pointed. Noſtrils oval, broad, naked.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill ſtrait, ſlender. Tongue jagged.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Greyiſh. Throat and breaſt ferruginous orange.

MOTACILLA RUBECULA, griſea, gula pectoreque ferrugineis. *Lin. Syſt. Nat.*

Sylvia Rubecula. *Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. 520. 42.

Robin Red-breaſt, or Ruddock. *Will. Orn.* 219.

Red-breaſt. *Br. Zool. Raii Syn. av.* 78. 1. 147. *Lath. Gen. Syn.* 4.

Le Rouge-gorge. *Briſ. av.* 3. 418.

Pettiroſſo. *Olin. uc. t. p.* 16.

Rotgel. *Faun. Suec. ſp.* 260.

PLATE CXXIII.

Roed-Finke, Roed-Kielke. *Brun.* 283.
Rothkehlein. *Friſch.* 1. 19.
Rothkropfl. *Kram.* 376.
Smarnza, Taſchtza. *Scop. No.* 231.

The manners and œconomy of this little creature are familiar to every one. It frequents inhabited places in the winter; in ſummer it retires into thickets or decayed buildings to breed. The neſt is compoſed of dried leaves mixed with hair and moſs, and lined with feathers: it contains from five to ſeven eggs of a duſky white colour, ſprinkled with irregular reddiſh ſpots. The young birds are very unlike the adults, being ſpotted with white.

The Robin has been choſen by our earlieſt poets to pourtray inſtinctive affection towards man. An artleſs tale*: a pathetic appeal to the tendereſt feelings, pleads its behalf to the infant mind, and maturer age rather cheriſhes than diſcards its firſt impreſſions. Hence the Robin, through ſucceſſive ages, has become an object of fondneſs, and ſuperſtitious reſpect; and, as if conſcious of our pity and protection, it boldly viſits our dwellings in winter, and claims that ſubſiſtence the inclement ſeaſon denies.

——"The RED-BREAST, ſacred to the houſehold gods,
Wiſely regardful of th' embroiling ſky,
In joyleſs fields and thorny thickets leaves
His ſhivering mates, and pays to truſted man
His annual viſit. Half afraid, he firſt

---

* An ancient and ſimple ballad, *The Babes in the Wood.*

Againſt

Againſt the windows beats: then briſk alights
On the warm hearth; then hopping o'er the floor,
Eyes all the family aſkance,
And pecks, and ſtarts, and wonders where he is,
Till more familiar grown, the table crumbs
Attract his ſlender feet."

THOMSON.

Diveſted of the pleaſing poetic ſimiles that are interwoven with the hiſtory of the Robin, it is a ſavage little animal, and in perpetual warfare with its own ſpecies, and every other tribe of ſmall birds. It feeds on inſects and ſeeds, or when preſſed by hunger, on many other kinds of food. The note is fine and ſoft.

PLATE CXXIV.

ANAS BOSCHAS.

MALLARD.

ANSERES.

Bill obtuſe, covered with a thin membrane, broad, gibbous below the baſe, ſwelled at the apex. Tongue fleſhy. Legs naked. Feet webbed or finned.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill convex above, flat beneath, ſwelled at the apex, with membranous teeth.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER

AND

SYNONYMS.

Aſh colour, middle tail feathers of the male recurved. Bill ſtrait. An incomplete white collar on the front of the neck.

ANAS BOSCHAS cinerea, rectricibus intermediis (maris) recurvatis, roſtro recto, torque alba. *Lin. Syſt. Nat.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* 2. 850. 49.

Anas domeſtica. *Geſner av.* 113. 96.

Common

PLATE CXXIV.

Common Wild Duck and Mallard. *Will. Orn.* 371. 380.
Raii Syn. p. 145. *A.* 1. 150. 1.
Albin. 2. *pl.* 10.—1. *pl.* 99.
Br. Zool. 2. *p.* 279. *pl.* 97.
Arct. Zool. No. 494.
Lath. Gen. Syn. 6. *p.* 489. 43.

Le Canard Sauvage. *Brif. Orn.* 6. *p.* 318. 4
Buff. Oif. 9. *p.* 115. *pl.* 7. 8.
—*Pl. Enl.* 776. 777.

Gras-And, Blanacke. *Faun. Succ. Sp.* 131.

Welde Ente. *Friſch.* 21. 158—159.

Ratza. *Scopoli.*

Einheimiſche ent. Stock ent. *Kram.* 341.

This is the parent ſtock of our domeſticated or common Duck. The varieties in a tame ſtate are endleſs, but they uniformly preſerve one character by which we can trace them to this wild origin; this is the ſhort curled tail feathers of the Drakes, which are conſtant in all its varieties of plumage, and the form of the bill in both ſexes, whether in a wild or domeſtic ſtate.

Theſe birds are ſo well known, that we beſtow little attention on their beauty; or we ſhould conſider the Mallard Drake the moſt beautiful of the web-footed birds that inhabit this country. The plumage throughout is of ſingular richneſs, and the various dotted ſtreaks and lines on the plainer colours are uncommonly elegant. The colours of the female, as in other inſtances, are more ſimple.

Wild

PLATE CXXIV.

Wild Ducks abound in this country, but are no where more plenty than in the fens of Lincolnſhire*. The means of taking theſe birds are various, and have been deſcribed with minuteneſs by many authors. The method in common uſe in England is to ſet large decoy nets in the places they frequent, and by means of a trained bird entice them into its labyrinths†. The inhabitants of other countries have alſo various and peculiar contrivances to entrap theſe, and others of the water fowl. Theſe birds breed in marſhy places, and lay from ten to ſixteen eggs. Dr. Latham ſays they are ſometimes known to lay the eggs in a high tree, in a deſerted Magpie, or Crow's neſt, and mentions an inſtance of one being found at *Etchingham* in Suſſex, ſitting upon nine eggs, in an Oak, twenty-five feet from the ground: the eggs were ſupported by twigs laid croſsways‡.

Length of this ſpecies near two feet; weight, two pounds and an half.

---

* In only ten decoys, in the neighbourhood of *Wainfleet*, thirty-one thouſand two hundred have been taken in one ſeaſon.—*Britiſh Zoology.*

† The decoy nets are generally placed on a piece of water nearly ſurrounded with wood, that the birds may not be frightened or diſturbed. They are ſo contrived, that different pipes lead to it from ſeveral directions; theſe pipes are ſo many avenues of net-work ſupported by hoops, which become gradually narrower from the opening, and lead up a ditch, at the end of which the funnel net is placed. Along theſe pipes, at proper intervals, are ſcreens of reeds, behind which the decoy man conceals himſelf from the birds. The Ducks trained for decoys are fed on hemp ſeed, which being light, floats on the ſurface of the water. When the evening ſets in, the decoy man throws ſome of the ſeeds from behind one of the ſcreens to the trained bird; this entices him into the pipe, and the wild fowl follow. When they arrive at a certain part of the avenue, the decoy bird dives under the water, and the reſt paſs on till they enter the purſe net, where they are taken.—*Brit. Zool. &c. &c.*

‡ *Lath. Gen. Syn.*

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